

Subcommittee Proposal (9/2/16)

Since 1998, visitor use in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and surrounding public lands has increased significantly, necessitating the need for additional infrastructure to responsibly accommodate the current, and likely future, increase in visitor use. Major developed sites, such as Old Faithful, Mammoth, and Canyon Village, do not represent habitat selected for by bears, and therefore a slight increase to the footprint or capacity may have minimal to no impact on the GYE grizzly bear population. As such, it is acceptable to consider in the future a slight increase to the footprint or capacity of major developed sites to accommodate increased infrastructure needs while minimizing impacts to higher priority habitats. Additionally, the current method of tracking and monitoring developed sites has been identified as in need of improvement. For example, developed sites are currently tracked as point features with no measurable footprint. Potential changes to the 1998 baseline that will accommodate needed additional infrastructure and modifications to developed site standards will be complete by the end of calendar year 2018. Any resulting modifications will minimize deviations to the 1998 baseline, be released for public comment, and be approved by the YGCC.

The final document must be agreeable to each of the federal land management agencies represented on the YES (FS, BLM, NPS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Completion of 1998 baseline revisions to be complete by end of the calendar year 2018

January 2017	Establish the planning group to review and propose revisions to the 1998 baseline. Participants should include representatives from the National Park Service (Kerry Gunther), Forest Service (Dan Tyers and Lisa Landenburger), Fish and Wildlife Service (Jennifer Fortin-Noreus), Bureau of Land Management, and the states of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.
Spring/Summer 2017	Workshops to discuss the issues: Definition of major versus minor developed site? How will the footprint of developed sites be measured? What level of change is acceptable? (i.e., buffer around developed site) How will mitigation be defined? (i.e., increased law enforcement, habitat quality of area impacted, etc.)
Fall 2017	Agencies gather necessary data for footprint of developed sites
Winter 2017	All data to Lisa Landenburger for development of new database

Spring 2018	Production of draft 1998 revisions for public comment
July 2018	30 day public comment period
August-October 2018	Summarize and respond to public comments